



Attorney Docket No. 051481-5053

H186/A
Shaw
11-8-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Peter HUENIKEN et al.)
Application No.: 09/639,083) Group Art Unit: 2839
Filed: 16 August 2000) Examiner: Prasad, C.
For: MULTIPLE AXIS CONNECTION SYSTEM)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING
A REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Sir:

Prior to the continued examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claim 15 as follows:

--15. A connecting system comprising:
a female member;
a male member being relatively displaceable with respect to the female member, the relative displacement being substantially along an axis lying in a plane;
a pair of first projections extending from opposite sides of the male member and extending parallel to the plane, each of the first projections having a first end spaced from a second end, each first end being fixed to the male member, and each second end being resiliently movable with respect to the male member, each second end including a protrusion feature; and
a pair of grooves in the female member, each groove extending parallel to the axis and receiving a respective one of the pair of first projections, and each groove including a cavity feature, the cavity feature cooperatively engaging the protrusion feature such that the male member is centered about the axis and absorbs vibration with respect to the female member and such that the male member is retained along the axis with respect to the female member.--.